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 Annual Report,
 To the Hursley Rural District Council,
 Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

Population in 1901.	11,636.
Area in Acres (land only)	25,521.
Inhabited Houses.	2,753.
Estimated population to July 1909.	11,199.

The district consists of eleven parishes viz:-
 Bram, Coaley, Hursley, Kingswood, North Ribbley,
 Nymansfield, Owlpen, Slimbridge, Stinchcombe,
 Uley and Wotton-under-Edge.

Inspector of Nuisances,
 Mr. William Webb
 Uley.

To the Hursley Rural District Council,
 Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen.

Description
of
District

the streams
of the
district

The Rural district of Hursley is situated on the sides & buttresses of the Western Cotswold, which hills geologically, consist almost entirely of white lime-stone. Great quantities of clay & marl lie in the valleys and run to considerable distances up the hillsides with here & there a bed of gravel.

Many springs of bright clear water rise at the foot or on the hillsides which unite in their respective valleys and so form the streams of the district:- the chief among which are the Bram, the Ribbley-brook, the Dyer-brook, the Oldbury-brook and the Wickwar-brook.

The ~~Can~~ ^{Stream} drains Uley, Wursley, ~~Can~~ ^{Stream} and the greater part of Coaley, it empties itself into the Berkeley & Gloucester Canal in the parish of ~~Blimbridge~~ ^{Blimbridge}; through which parish the canal passes.

The Nibley-brook drains the greater part of North Nibley and discharges into the Matford-brook. The Myers-brook drains Hotton-under-Edge, the Alderley-brook, the Alderley part of Hotton-under-Edge, these unite, and so form one stream which drains Kingswood, and joins the little stream.

The Hickwar-brook drains only a small & remote part of the parish of Kingswood, but is chiefly important as forming a boundary between this District & Chipping Sodbury & Thornbury Rural Districts.

With about one exception, it may be said these streams are not used for domestic purposes.

^{The}
^{Villages}
^{of the}
^{district.} The Villages which make up the District vary in more directions than one; as to population per acre, some are fairly compact, while others are scattered; as to situation some are built on the hillsides and abutments, which run out to different distances in the Valley of the Severn, others again are on lower ground. Wimpyfield is the only village situated near the top of the hill, and is from 700 to 800 ft above sea level; and Blimbridge is the only village wholly situated in the valley so that for the most part the District is naturally well drained.

House accommodation is better provided for in

house the district than it was years ago.
accommodation During the year we inspected nineteen new dwellings all of a very good type. Also one dwelling constructed out of an old malt-house under Public Health Act (Amendment) Act 1890 Part III Sec 33. The bye-laws with regard to new buildings will prevent the construction of back to back houses in the parish of Hursley and will insure a sufficiency of space about them: but of that there is little to complain of in this district; and with few exceptions the surroundings are fairly well kept.

Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890. Pt II. No house has been closed under this section. Three have been placed in habitable repair.

Cleansing & Limewashing Sec 46. Public Health Act, 1875.

Four have been cleansed & limewashed during the year under this section.

Plans of New Buildings: -

Some sets of Plans for new buildings in the District of Hursley, have been before your Board and approved, being four for domestic buildings and one for Shop & Warehouse etc. He found a sanitary defect in one, this was remedied.

Sanitary Arrangements in New Buildings.

Under Sec 21 to 25. Public Health Act 1875.

He inspected the sanitary arrangements to nineteen new dwellings. One house drain emptied into ditch. One into septic tank. One had no house drain. The remainder emptying into cesspits or into sewers.

Secs 35 & 36. He found eight supplied with pail-closets, eleven with H.C.S.

All except one had no ash-pit. In most cases the ashes are either used in nail-closets or collected by the scavenger and kept in boxes till so collected.

Public Health (Water) Act 1878. Sec. 6.

Under the above we have inspected the water supply to nineteen new, one re-constructed dwellings and twelve water certificates have been issued by your Board during the year.

Sewage & Sewers.

The sewerage system of Hursley & Bram was completed in the year 1905. There were twenty connections made to the new sewers during the year, making a total of 242. The outfall works continue to give satisfaction.

Wotton-under-Edge has no proper system of drainage, but much good work was done a year or two ago, which has greatly improved those streets in which the work was carried out. To the drains of Wotton-under-Edge three connections were made during the year.

The Sewers in the other part of the district are both short & small, improvements are carried out in all reconstructions of drains & sewers. All the public Sewers of the district are under the control of your Board Sec 13.

Public Health Act 1875.

But little sewage enters the stream called the Bram, until it reaches Hursley. The process of reducing this is slow, as only twenty connections were made to the new sewers during the year.

The Sewers of Wotton-under-Edge empty into Wey Brook. Here it may be mentioned that

on June 15th. Several delegates from the Gloucestershire County Council Sanitary Committee with Mr. Martin, County Medical Officer of Health, met at Holton-under-Edge and inspected the above stream, this meeting & inspection & attended also Mr. Webb. The sub. come of which is as follows: Viz: -

"It has been suggested that with a view to a mitigation of the nuisance for the present an intercepting sewer be laid to collect sewage for treatment by septic tanks below the mill, at a reasonable cost out of current revenue with arrangement for storm water over-flow.

Signed by Messrs H. P. Hicks Beach, F. G. Critchley, & Mathew Grist.

The sewage which finds its way into the other streams of the District is but small in quantity and what of excrement is not water-borne is collected in cesspools, privies, or pail closets.

There are a great many pail-closets in Holton-under-Edge, some in Hursley and other parts of the District but the most common method of collecting it in the small villages is by the privy-with vault, and this is without doubt the most undesirable. These are usually emptied once a year by the occupier. Cesspools are usually emptied by the occupier. Scavenging Public Health Act 1875.

No change has been made in the scavenging of the District during the year.

The Public Scavengers of the District are appointed by Your Board.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the district is as follows:

and in order of time, Coaley, Kingswood, Holton-under-Edge and Hursley have public supplies. In Holton-under-Edge ten connections were made to the water-main during the year. In Hursley twelve.

No change in the parishes of Coaley or Kingswood. The parish of Bam:-

There is a small supply in Upper Bam, and another in Lower Bam, these supplies are by means of stand-pipes or cisterns with taps. One would like to find a good supply for the village. All the remaining parishes are supplied by spring, deep or shallow wells, some with, many without pumps.

All these water supplies are under the control of your Board.

All the water in the District is more or less hard, but for the most part it may be said to be fairly well supplied with water.

No further change has been made in the District with regard to water supply during the year. The rainfall during the year was 32.14 inches.

Water Analysis.

Fourteen samples of water were examined during the year, twelve were found fit for domestic use, two were found suspicious.

The Common-lodging-houses.

There are only two of the above in the District. These are situated in Holton-under-Edge, both were visited by us under the bye-laws relating thereto, in April and again in December, and we found them in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughterhouses:-

Under the bye-laws relating thereto we

visited and inspected 28 of the above between October 12th & November 13th. He found 27 in a satisfactory condition & recommended limewashing in one. Here & may draw attention to a memorandum of the Local Government Board dated Oct. 29th 1909. In which they require to be further informed concerning the above in the Annual Report, and the special points are the following: Viz:-

- 1st. How many slaughterhouses are there in the District. There are 28.
- 2nd. Whether they are visited at times of slaughtering No.
- 3rd. Whether there is an inspector with a special certificate in meat inspection. No.
- 4th. Whether any, and if so, how many carcasses or parts of carcasses were found to be tuberculous. None again. No.
- 5th. What action has taken in each case in which tuberculosis was detected. Therefore, this is - no action taken.

Dairies, Cowsheads, Milkshops & Milkstores.

The above were re-registered during the year, & there are 75 names in the Inspector's book, under the Dairies, Cowsheads, & Milkshops Order 1885. Of these there are two Milkshops in the District. To these various premises 144 visits of inspection have been made during the year.

With the following result: Viz., there was found under Structural & Sanitary Plate.

a. Lighting.	Good.
b. Ventilation	Good.
c. Cleansing.	2. required limewashing.
d. Drainage.	Good.

e. Water supply. satisfactory.
4. H. Q's. not any. Oct 10. Haries Orders.
Dangerous & Infectious Disease.
There was one case of the above at a dairy-farm in Uley, the case was isolated at once at the Moors, the house disinfected and cleansed and as far as we know no case that followed in Uley could be traced to it. At present your Board has not adopted regulations to control Haries, Sawheds & Milkshops. There has been no station taken by the Council or by any other authority acting under special powers, in causing dairy-cows in the district to be examined by Veterinary Surgeons, so far as I am aware.

The above is another matter upon which the Local Government Board desired to be specially informed.

Factories & Workshops Oct 1901.

In the inspectors Register there were entered 35 Factories, 44 Workshops, 25 Retail bakehouses and 5 laundries, making a total of 109. There were 35 inspections made to Factories, 120 to Workshops including bakehouses and laundries, and one to a work. place, making a total of 156.

No lists of outworkers have been sent in.

We have no out-workers in the District. The following is the information gained & defects remedied Pig: - Writter notices were sent to three and other action taken under the various sections as enumerated below:

(Sec 2 (1)) Cleanliness: 9 required limewashing.
four bakehouses & five other workshops.

(Sec 2 (7)) Ventilation Satisfactory.

(\$\$. 2(1) 3) Overcrowding not any.
(\$\$. 2(2)) Nuisances, effluvia from drains, etc. one.
(\$\$. 8) Drainage of floors good.
(\$\$. 14) Means of escape from fire. Satisfactory.
Retail bakeshops.
(\$\$. 97) H. P. & C. & C. Ashpits, cistern, drains. not any.
(\$\$. 98) Nuisance on sanitary ground. Satisfactory.
(\$\$. 100) Sleeping place on same level. not any.
(\$\$. 101) Underground & certified. not any.
(\$\$. 133) Failure to affix abstract. not any.
There is no woman, or child as young person employed in any retail bakeshops in the District.

There was one case of dangerous infectious disease occurred in the house of a dress-maker in the parish of Limbridge. The case was removed to the isolation hospital, the place disinfected and cleansed, and as far as we know no other case followed as the result of it.

Nuisances Sec 91. Public Health Act 1875.

Under this section 91 nuisances were reported, also 2. swine nuisances. Total number of notices served 210. Total number of statutory notices served 50. Total number of nuisances abated during the year 90.

Burial Grounds & Cemeteries.

In consequence of a complaint made concerning the church-yard, Holton-under-Edge I visited it with Mr. Webb on September 7th & made a report there-on to your Board. In it I suggested that it might be worth while for the parish Council to give the question of providing a Cemetery for the parish early consideration.

Prosecutions. There was no prosecution during the year.

Attendance at meeting of Rural District Councils. There were twelve during the year.

Infectious Diseases notification Act 1889, Table III under the above Act 71 cases were notified during the year. These being 17 of Diphtheria, eleven of Cysipelas, and 43 of Scarlet-fever. It is the most serious out-break as to numbers since I have held office - twenty years. Of the districts there were 47 in the Wensley District and 24 in the Holton-under-Edge District. Fifteen were removed to the isolation hospital, being 14 from Wensley district and one from Holton-under-Edge. These were 6 in the first quarter, 12 in the second, 17 in the third, and 36 in the fourth.

Dangerous Infectious Sickness.

There have been 52 cases of dangerous infectious sickness entered in the District Medical Officer's Relief-books.

all notifiable were duly notified.

There were 14 of diarrhea, 3 of measles, 26 of Influenza, 8 of & P hooping-cough and one of Miphleria. There were 24 in the Wensley District, four of these being in the Workhouse and 28 in the Holton-under-Edge District. Measles & P hooping-cough are not notifiable in this district.

Means taken in this District to prevent the spread of dangerous infectious disease. All notifiable diseases where there is urgency are visited by Mr Webb or myself or both of us together as soon as possible.

after the notification certificate has been received.

II The inspector sends without delay printed instructions relating to isolation, disinfection etc., to all cases.

III Disinfectants are supplied free of cost to all people in humble life.

IV In all cases where there is a child or children attending a public elementary school or schools from an infected home, there is forwarded memorandum (8) giving information as to the nature of the infection in such-and-such household to the manager, master or mistress of such school or schools as early as is possible.

V Of these 27 sent during the year.

When the infected person has recovered, the house thoroughly disinfected and cleansed, it is inspected, if found to be satisfactory a certificate is forwarded of proper disinfection to the afore-said school authorities.

Of these thirteen were sent during the year.

VI In 1904 your Board passed a resolution authorizing disinfection of room or rooms after death & burial in cases of Phthisis. Of these eleven were disinfected during the year.

VII The disinfection of public elementary schools. Where there has been good reason for suspecting infection of such premises. Of these one was disinfected.

VIII The closing of public elementary schools in consequence of the prevalence of dangerous infectious disease in accordance with the memorandum of the Local Government Board

January 1908." With a view to prevent the spread of disease." This was carried out in the following parishes: viz: -
The Stinchcombe School, -Whooping-cough. March 6 to 27.
The Uley School, Whooping-cough. April 21st to June 16.
The Kingswood school, Diphtheria July 23rd to July 30.
The Wimbley school, Measles Sept 10th to Sept 24th.

II During 1907 your Board resolved to send notices of the prevalence of dangerous infectious disease to Superintendents of Sunday Schools in districts in which the public elementary Schools were closed asking for their co-operation in preventing the spread of disease. Of these eight were sent during the year.

IX Removals to the Infectious Hospital fifteen were removed to the Moors during the year.

X Bacteriological Diagnosis.

Three cases of Diphtheria were verified by the above process but these can represent but few of the swabs sent to the bacteriologist for examination.

XI Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1908.

Under the above the District Medical Officers are instructed to notify the Medical Officer of Health, of cases of pulmonary phthisis coming under their care for treatment. I received two notifications of the above both from Holton-under-Edge district. Both were visited by myself & Mr Webb. Both have died of the disease.

In the Memorandum of the Local Government Board above referred to, -

It states that if the Council should wish to extend the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889, in their district

to Glanders Anthrax & Hydrophobia in man, the Board would be prepared to favourably entertain an application for their approval of the resolution which, after due notice it would be necessary for the Council to pass on the subject.

No case of Anthrax was reported in the district during the year.

The Isolation hospital.

This is situated at the Moors in the parish of Goaley, District of Hunsley. It is intended for small-pox only, and is capable of accommodating four of such cases.

Break Heart's Hill, Hospital Site.

The above is still in the possession of Your Board, but is let to a tenant.

Vital Statistics

Table I.

The population of this district in the census year, according to Official Information was 11,636, which was lower than had been estimated for that year.

The estimation of the population to the middle of 1909 has been calculated on the proportional loss between the census years 1891 & 1901, so that it is estimated to be 11,199 & almost all the calculations are based upon the estimated population.

Table II This estimation of the population apportions to the combined districts of Hunsley & Ulley with Workhouse 6912, to Hutton-under-Edge District 4287.

The births registered in the whole district during the year are 232, with a birth-rate 20.7. Of these 111 are males, and 121 females.

For the different districts, it is Dursley 142 birth-rate 20.5. Hotton-under-Edge 90. birth-rate 20.9. For the Administrative County of Gloucester in 1908 it was 22.4. For all England & Wales 26.5.

Table II

The deaths registered during the year in the district are 172 with a death-rate of 15.3. but there were 5 deaths of residents belonging to the district registered in public Institutions beyond the District this makes the nett deaths at all ages 177, with a death-rate 15.8. This is called the general death-rate.

Of these 87 were males and 90 females. The death-rate for the Administrative County for 1908 was 12.8. For all England & Wales 14.7. The deaths for the district of Dursley were 113. with death-rate 16.3. A high death-rate. So many old people died.

Hotton under Edge 94 with a death-rate 14.9. Deaths in the period of old age are 70-80 forty-seven; 80-90 twenty-nine; 90-100, seven; seven nonagenarians. The total number of deaths over seventy years were 83.

Infant Mortality:

The deaths registered in the District under one year are 23. death-rate 99.1. This is the number of deaths under one year to the thousand births. In 1908 it was 79.5. For the Administrative County of Gloucester it was 83. For all England & Wales 121.

Here, I think it a suitable position to deal with the last item to be dealt with in the afore-said Memorandum of the Local Government Board viz:- a full account of the Working of the Notification of Births etc 1907.

The reply to which is "that the Act has not been adopted in this District.

Table E.

Tabulates deaths from various causes under one year, in weeks and months. Also certified & unverified deaths registered in the District. All were certified. It also takes note of legitimate and illegitimate births, the legitimate were 225 and the illegitimate were 7. Also the deaths of legitimate infants that is, under one year, of these 19 were registered of the illegitimate infants 4.

Table F. deals with the working of the Factory & Workshops Act and is sent out from the Home Office. This has been dealt with under that Section.

Syntotic Disease etc Table IV.

The seven principal Syntotic diseases are Small pox, Measles, Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, & Membranous Croup, & Hooping cough. Fevers and Diarrhoea was the cause of death in six persons in the District during the year. Syntotic death-rate is .53. One died of Scarlet fever death-rate .08. Two of & Hooping-cough death-rate .17. One of Diphtheria death-rate .08. Two of Diarrhoea death-rate .17. Four died in Merton under-Edge. Two in Worsley Districts.

Also died of Epidemic Influenza death-rate .53. Two of Enteritis death-rate .17. Eleven of Phthisis death-rate .98. Two of other tubercular diseases death-rate .17. Ten died of Cancer death-rate .89. Thirteen of Acute Respiratory Diseases death-rate 1.16.

Eleven of other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Two of alcoholism, & two cases of liver.
One of premature birth. Twenty-three of heart
disease. Three of accidents, & 88 of all other causes.
Men died in the Work-house during the year.
No death was registered in the District from
Small-pox, Measles, Croup, Fevers of any kind.
Cholera, Plague, Gastritis, Puerperal-fever,
Cysipelas, Pleurisy, Venereal Diseases, Diseases
& accidents of Partition nor Suicide.

Prospective:-

The Completion of the house connections to the
new Sewers in Hursley's Farm.
The possibility of making use of the Housing,
Town Planning etc etc.

Housing of the Working Classes.
Part III of the Housing of the Working Classes
Act 1890, which enables Local Authorities to
provide houses for the Working classes.

I remain,
Your Obedient Servant

J. J. Jones

April 6-1910.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909/previous years.

Name of District:- Dursley Rural

Year	Population estimated 6 middle of year	Burials	Total death registered in district			Total deaths public authorities in the district	Deaths registered in the district	Deaths registered in the district	Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district		
			Under 1 year of age	Rate per 1000 births	At All Ages				Number	Rate	Number
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1899	11729	275	23.4	29	105.4	204	17.3	10			
1900	11676	262	22.4	19	72.5	172	14.7	13			
1901	11623	255	21.9	18	70.5	153	13.1	7	3	150	12.73
1902	11570	237	20.4	31	130.8	190	16.4	14	1	3	193 16.6
1903	11517	283	24.5	24	84.8	157	13.8	16	2	159	13.8
1904	11464	266	23.2	19	71.4	141	12.3	12	9	150	13
1905	11411	262	22.9	25	95.4	155	13.5	7	4	6	157 13.7
1906	11358	241	21.2	18	74.7	171	15.	7	8	179	15.7
1907	11305	216	19.1	14	64.8	138	11.7	10	8	141	12.4
1908	11252	264	23.4	21	79.5	148	13.1	17	7	155	13.7
average for year											
1899-1908	11490.5	256.1	22.2	21.8	84.9	162.4	14	113			
1909	1199	232	20.7	23.	99.1	172	15.3	10	-	5	177.9 15.8

Area of district
in acres
(exclusive of
area covered
by water) 26,521.

Total population at all ages 11636
Number of inhabited houses 2753
Average number of persons per house 4.2 }
at census of 1901

Table II Vital Statistics of Separate Localities 1909 and former Years
Name of District: - Dursley Rural

Name of Localities	1 Dursley District and Workhouse				2 Tewy District & Workhouse				3 Wotton under Edge District & Workhouse			
	Population estimated 6 months each year	Births registered	Deaths all ages Deaths under 1 year	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated 6 months each year	Deaths all ages Deaths under 1 year	Deaths all ages Deaths under 1 year	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated 6 months each year	Births registered	Deaths all ages Deaths under 1 year	Deaths under 1 year
Year	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
1899	5184	119	82	19	1868	52	35	1	4677	104	87	9
1900	5177	117	77	8	1861	38	25	1	4638	107	70	10
1901	5170	110	49	4	1854	44	23	4	4599	101	74	10
1902	5163	113	72	12	1847	31	36	7	4560	93	84	12
1903	5156	127	62	9	1840	45	23	4	4521	111	74	11
1904	5149	119	62	6	1833	44	24	5	4482	103	64	8
1905	5142	125	68	14	1826	38	26	1	4443	99	67	10
1906	6954	157	90	11					4404	90	89	7
1907	6940	118	86	11					4365	78	55	3
1908	6926	161	84	13					4326	103	71	8
averages of years												
(1899-1908)	6989	158.2	92.4	13					4501.5	100.9	73.5	8.8
1909	6912	142	113	13					4287	90	64	10

view more III

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1909

Name of District:— Darsley Rural

Notifiable Disease	Cases notified in whole District		Total cases notified in each locality					No. of cases notified to the city	Total cases notified to the city	
	at all	at ages - years	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 & upwards			
Small-pox										
Cholera										
Diphtheria	17	—	3	7	3	4	6	11	2	
infectious hepatitis	11	1	2	1	—	6	1	9	2	
Enteric fever	113	1	16	20	3	3	—	32	11	
Typhus fever										
Enteric fever										
Relapsing fever										
Cuban fever										
Puerperal fever										
Plague										
Totals	71	2	21	28	6	13	1	47	24	1
										15

Isolation hospital name & situation:— The Nurses, Coulby

Total available beds 4 for small-pox.

Number of ^{cases} diseases that can be conveniently treated 1.
But 6 to 8 of Scarlet fever in children can be treated there.

Name of District in District Board

Cause of death	Deaths of the following ages of residents whether occurring in or before the district												Deaths of all ages of residents outside the district	Total deaths outside the district
	All ages	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 and over		
Small-pox														
Measles														
Scarlet fever	1							1					1	
Whooping-cough	2	1	1										2	
Tuberculosis & Malaria-crop	1					1							1	
Croup														
{ Typhus														
fever { Epidemic														
{ Other Colds														
Epidemic Typhus	6	2	-	1									3	5
Other														
Plague														
Diarrhea	2										2	2		
Enteritis	2	1									1	2		
Gastritis														
Puerperal fever														
Typhus fever														
Phthisis	11						3	8			8	3		
Pulmonary tuberculosis														
Other tuberculosis	2				1		1				2			
diseases														
Cancer	10							6	4	6	4			1
Malignant disease														
Bronchitis	8	1								7	4	4		
Pneumonia	5	3								2	5	-		
Pleurisy														
Other diseases of body organs	11									2	9	7	4	2
Calcification	2									1	1	1	1	1
Cystous of disease														
Vascular diseases														
Premature birth	5	5										5		
Diseases of heart & circulation														
Heart disease	23			1	1	4	17	18	5					3
Accidents	3	1	1				1			1	2			
Stroke														
All other causes	88	9	2	4	4	14	50	47	36					3
All Causes	177	23	4	8	9	37	96	113	64					10

